



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN
Commissioner

Memorandum:

TO: Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Commissioner Patricia Rehmer, MSN, DMHAS

DATE: March 6, 2015

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 203

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Miller and members of the Planning and Development Committee. I am Patricia Rehmer, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and I am writing to express my concern regarding **SB 203 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES**.

The proposed bill before you today would require any DMHAS operated or funded, community residence governed under section 8-3e of the Connecticut General Statutes to “comply with all local zoning and land use regulations and ordinances.” This language would include licensed community residences which house six or fewer persons receiving mental health or addiction services. Our community residences are currently licensed by the Department of Public Health.

I would like to bring to the Committee’s attention, section 8-3e subsection (a) currently states, “No zoning regulation shall treat the following (i.e. community residences) in a manner different from any single family residence”. Hence, if there is a local zoning or land use regulation or ordinance in effect for single family residences in a municipality, our community residences are required to comply with the same regulation or ordinance.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.